

*Wright - Dr. / S. J. / S. J. / S. J.**Unclassified*

In reply refer
to MP-96

MEMORANDUM FOR: Commanding Officer
Army Map Service
6500 Brooks Lane
Washington 16, D.C.

ATTENTION: Map Intelligence Branch

SUBJECT: Map Presentation of Southern Boundary of French
Guiana with Brazil

REFERENCE: Letter from the Assistant Executive Officer, Army Map
Service, to Director, Central Intelligence Agency,
dated 21 May 1952

1. The southern boundary of French Guiana with Brazil was delimited by Arbitral Sentence of the Swiss Federal Council on 1 December 1900, as follows:

From the principal source of the Oyapoc (Oiapoque) to the Surinam boundary, the line follows the division of waters of the basin of the Amazon, which in this region is constituted almost in its totality by the de facto line of the Tumac-Ihuac mountains. (Marchant, Alexander, Boundaries of the Latin American Republics, Government Printing Office, Washington, 1944, p. 263.)

This award has been used as the basis for delineating the southern section of the Brazil-French Guiana boundary on maps. It is impossible, however, to provide the exact alignment of the southern boundary for cartographic presentation, because: (a) the boundary has not been surveyed or demarcated on the ground since the award was granted; (b) the exact location of the source of the Rio Oiapoque has not been agreed to by a joint Brazilian-French survey commission; and (c) according to recent information, the Tumac Ihuac Mountains "simply do not exist" (Department of State Despatch No. 59, Martinique, FWI, 27 October 1950, French Guiana - A Brief Descriptive Survey, p. 2. Unclassified).

2. Since the exact boundary alignment cannot be provided, various Brazilian and French maps have been used to plot the southern boundary on the enclosed copy of the World Aeronautical Chart No. 894. Each

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section of the boundary has been lettered on the map and the source is cited in a note. The reasons for selecting the maps used as sources are given in the following paragraphs, keyed to the map by the letters A, B, C, and D.

A. For the source of the Rio Oiapoque, a French map, Haut-Ouyapock, Etude Préliminaire d'Après les levés d'Itinéraires de la Mission de l'Ouyapock 1947 et de la Mission du Maroni 1948, 1:100,000, Institut Géographique National, 1950 (CIA 0112, not catalogued), was selected because it is based on a survey of the river conducted by the French in 1947 and the resulting data are the best available. The French mission indicated the source of the Rio Oiapoque to be at approximately 1°58'N-53°04'W. It should be noted, however, that the headwaters of the river are shown on the latest available Brazilian map as being located to the northwest of the source shown on the French map. A copy of the Brazilian map (Carta do Brasil, sheet HA 22, Anapá, 1:1,000,000, Conselho Nacional de Geografia, August 1950) is available at ACES and is more recent than the AIG copy.

B. A French map, Carte de la Guyane Française au 1:500,000, Institut Géographique National, 1950 (CIA 77113), was used for the boundary from the headwaters of the Rio Oiapoque to 2°04'N-53°11'W, since it is the only map available showing this section of the boundary.

C. The boundary from 2°04'N-53°11'W to 2°05'N-53°16'W has been interpolated on the World Aeronautical Chart sheet.

D. To plot the boundary from 2°05'N-53°16'W to the junction of the Brazil-French Guiana-British Guianan boundaries on the World Aeronautical Chart, the two sheets of the Carta do Brasil, HA 22, Anapá, and HA 21, Tumacurique, were used. The delineation of this section was based on the Brazilian sheets in preference to the French 1:500,000 map because they show hydrography on both sides of the boundary and give the boundary alignment. On the French map, the waters south of the divide have been omitted and only two small sections of the boundary are indicated: (1) at the source of the Rio Oiapoque and (2) at the junction of the Brazil-French Guiana-British Surinam boundaries; between these two sections the line shown represents the water divide and is not a boundary line.

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Because of the lack of definite information for the boundary, it is suggested that the line be shown by an indefinite symbol.

FOR THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT AND REPORTS:


Chief, Geographic Division

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Enclosure: 1

World Geographical Chart /RPH

CHIEF/Geographic Division (12 July 1958)

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